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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2014

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/69/472)*]

69/233. Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[6] the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[7] the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[8] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[9] the report of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[10] and the outcome document of the third International Conference on

[1] Resolution 60/1.

[2] Resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[7] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[8] Resolution 65/1.

[9] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[10] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35.

Please recycle

Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",[11]

Recalling further its resolutions 53/200 of 15 December 1998, entitled "Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism", 65/148 of 20 December 2010, entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism" and 68/207 of 20 December 2013, entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America",

Recalling its resolution 67/223 of 21 December 2012, entitled "Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection",

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Stressing also that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to the fight against poverty, the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development,

Stressing further the role of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in promoting rural development and better living conditions for sustainable rural populations,

Welcoming the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, the achievements of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development and the objectives of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, which was launched in 2011 as a permanent successor to the International Task Force,

Noting the initiatives launched and the events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;[12]

2. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation, that it can have a positive impact on income generation and education, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and that it can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Also recognizes* the potential of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to reduce poverty by improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

[11] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[12] See A/69/223 and Corr.1.

4. *Emphasizes* the need to optimize the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits stemming from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, in all countries, particularly developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States;

5. *Also emphasizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, can contribute to sustainable development, in particular environment protection, and can improve the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities;

6. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, creates significant opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and of natural areas by encouraging indigenous peoples and local communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage;

7. *Underlines*, in this regard, the importance of establishing, at the national level, where necessary, appropriate policies, guidelines and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, for promoting and supporting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and minimizing any potential negative impact;

8. *Invites* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to encourage and support best practices in relation to the implementation of relevant policies, guidelines and regulations in sustainable tourism, including the ecotourism sector, and to implement and disseminate existing guidelines;

9. *Encourages* Governments at all levels to use sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool to support poverty eradication, environmental protection and/or conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and to base tourism components on clear evidence of market demand and on a sound economic and environmental foundation;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote investment in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in accordance with their national legislation, which may include creating small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting cooperatives and facilitating access to financing through inclusive financial services, including microcredit initiatives for the poor, for indigenous peoples and for local communities in areas, including rural areas, with high potential for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

11. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to support the coordination of regional and/or international sustainable tourism development frameworks, as appropriate, in order to assist countries in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection;

12. *Underlines* the importance of conducting an environmental impact assessment, in accordance with national legislation, for the development of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism opportunities;

13. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, in all their aspects, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in policy development for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and underlines the importance of promoting the full and early participation and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating their

knowledge, heritage and values in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

14. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to ensure the full empowerment of women, including the equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

15. *Also emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to help ensure the equal participation of youth, persons with disabilities and older persons at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas and to promote the effective economic empowerment, including through international cooperation, of women, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, mainly through decent job and income creation;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in the context of the global campaign for the Millennium Development Goals, to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an instrument that can contribute to achieving those Goals, in particular the Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and of ensuring environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

17. *Encourages* the regional and international financial institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of such activities;

18. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, in particular the World Tourism Organization, United Nations bodies and other organizations, to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request, and to assist, as appropriate, in strengthening legislative or policy frameworks for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, including those for environment protection and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;

19. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, other organizations and multilateral financial institutions to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request and as appropriate, in identifying needs as well as opportunities to improve the contribution of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to poverty eradication, including through securing wider community benefits from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, as a viable and sustainable economic development option;

20. *Encourages* all stakeholders to cooperate in supporting, as appropriate, the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

21. *Encourages* the public and private sectors and relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request, assistance for capacity-building, the development of specific guidelines and awareness-raising materials and training for people involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, such as language training and training in specific skills in tourism services, as well as to develop or strengthen partnerships, especially in protected areas;

22. *Invites* relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request and as appropriate, technical assistance to assist in building the capacity, including for marketing and

product positioning, of local communities, cooperatives and small and medium-sized businesses involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

23. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a means to achieve economic growth, to reduce inequalities and to improve living standards in developing countries, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have the potential to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

24. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to consider joining the framework of the Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization as a way to promote socioeconomic and environmentally sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and to support better informed sustainable tourism policies around the world, mainly through the identification and dissemination of best practices and enhanced awareness of and capacity-building for sustainability among tourism stakeholders;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development, taking into account relevant reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.

75th plenary meeting
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